

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an allograft cell designed to inhibit development of an adaptive T cell response, the method specifically inhibiting the development of an adaptive T cell response to target cell-specific, cell surface-expressed alloantigens comprising:

providing ~~contacting ex vivo a target cell expressing said alloantigen with an a~~ non-immunogenic expression vector encoding a CD8 polypeptide consisting of all or a functional portion of a CD8 α -chain, wherein said CD8 α -chain includes a transmembrane domain for expression of said CD8 α -chain on the surface of said target cell whereby said CD8 α -chain inhibits the development of adaptive T cell immunity to the cell surface-expressed alloantigens ~~upon transplantation; and~~
contacting ex vivo an allograft cell expressing a surface alloantigen with the non-immunogenic expression vector.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method for specifically inhibiting the development of an adaptive T cell responses to donor cell surface-expressed alloantigens in a recipient, comprising:

(a) contacting *ex vivo* donor allograft cells expressing said donor alloantigens with ~~an a~~ a non-immunogenic expression vector encoding a CD8 polypeptide consisting of all or a functional portion of a CD8 α -chain prior to or contemporaneous with transplantation of said allograft cells into said recipient, wherein said CD8 α -chain includes a transmembrane domain for expression of said CD8 α -chain on the surface of said donor allograft cells;

(b) transplanting said donor allograft cells into said recipient, wherein said cell surface expression of said CD8 α -chain by said allograft cells specifically inhibits the development an adaptive T cell responses to said donor alloantigens.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for extending the survival of an allograft in a recipient, comprising:

(a) contacting *ex vivo* cells of said allograft with ~~an~~ a non-immunogenic expression vector encoding a CD8 polypeptide consisting of all or a functional portion of a CD8 α -chain prior to or contemporaneous with transplantation of said allograft into said recipient, wherein said CD8 α -chain includes a transmembrane domain for expression of said CD8 α -chain on the surface of said donor allograft cells;

(b) transplanting said allograft into said recipient, wherein said cell surface expression of said CD8 α -chain extends the survival time of said allograft.

7-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of Claims 1, 5, and 6, wherein said CD8 α -chain is a human CD8 α -chain.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of Claims 1, 5, and 6, wherein said CD8 α -chain consists of a CD8 α -chain extracellular domain and a transmembrane domain.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 15 wherein said transmembrane domain is a CD8 α -chain transmembrane domain.

18-26. (Cancelled)

27-39. (Cancelled)

40. (New) A composition for transplantation into a recipient, the composition comprising a donor cell having an alloantigen on a surface of the donor cell, the donor cell being conditioned with a non-immunogenic expression vector encoding a CD8 polypeptide consisting of all or a functional portion of a CD8 α -chain resulting in expression of the CD8 α -chain on the surface of the donor cell.

41. (New) The composition of claim 40 wherein the donor cell includes a cell found in a tissue or an organ at risk of a graft versus host disease immune response.

42. (New) The composition of claim 41 wherein the tissue or the organ includes one of a liver, a skin or an intestinal tract.

43. (New) The composition of claim 40 wherein the donor cell can be present as a single entity, or can be part of a larger collection of cells.
44. (New) The composition of claim 43 wherein the larger collection of cells includes one of a cell culture, a tissue, an organ, or an organ system.
45. (New) The composition of claim 44 wherein the tissue includes an epithelial tissue.
46. (New) The composition of claim 43 wherein the organ includes one of a heart, a lung or a liver.
47. (New) The composition of claim 43 wherein the organ system includes a nervous system.
48. (New) The composition of claim 40 wherein transplantation into the recipient effectively and specifically inhibits an immune response directed against the composition.
49. (New) The composition of claim 40 wherein the donor cell includes a donor cell of an allograft transplant tissue.
50. (New) The composition of claim 49 wherein transplantation of the allograft transplant tissue into the recipient prolongs a survival time of the allograft transplant tissue.
51. (New) The composition of claim 49 wherein transplantation of the allograft transplant tissue into the recipient induces stable immunological tolerance to the allograft transplant tissue.
52. (New) The composition of claim 40 wherein the CD8 α -chain includes a human CD8 α -chain.
53. (New) The composition of claim 40 wherein the CD8 α -chain includes a CD8 α -chain extracellular domain and a transmembrane domain.